Accordingly, a PCR-based technique was developed to facilitate preparation of various C-terminal truncations that would retain the conserved regions. PCR primers were designed to introduce a stop codon and restriction enzyme site at selected points, yielding the truncations described in Table 2 below. Sequencing confirmed that no undesired mutations had been introduced in the constructs. --

In the Drawings:

Please cancel Figure 2.

In Figure 3, please delete the caption "Figure 3" and substitute therefor -- Figure 2 --.

In the Claims:

36. (Once amended) An antibody that binds a RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13.

38. (Once amended) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 36, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;

b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;

d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;

f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

g) a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

Please cancel claim 39.

Please cancel claim 40.

Please cancel claim 41.

Please add the following new claims: